

Montgomery County Guide to Community-Supported Agricultural Operations (CSAs)

Community Supported Agriculture is a growing trend in small farm operations across the country. Instead of being constrained by national market tendencies, farmers running community-supported agricultural operations (CSAs) form partnerships with customers living in their area. Because payment for the produce to be grown is made at the beginning of the season, the farmer receives a measure of financial security and is able to plan more effectively for the long term. The customer benefits in the form of fresh, locally-grown food and a close relationship with the farmer that allows for direct input on the type and quality of the products purchased.

To join a community-supported agricultural operation (CSA), a customer fills out an application to buy a share in or subscription to the overall crop the farmer expects to produce that season. After paying the subscription fee, the customer is entitled to receive a portion of the crop every week of the season, usually to be picked up at a specified location (the farm, or a central meeting place). The fruits and vegetables delivered vary weekly, based on what crops are in season and how well they are growing. Some CSAs may encourage or require customers to help in tending the crop as partial payment for a share. This can include harvesting, weeding, mulching, and a variety of other farm chores.

Listed below are the CSAs operating in Montgomery County. Subscription costs, pick-up/delivery options and products available differ by farm.

Avian Mead Organics

20921 New Hampshire Ave.
Brookville, MD

301-924-2960
jjriser@msn.com

Description: Certified Organic, growing a variety of produce including asparagus, rhubarb and berries. Subscriptions are limited.

Hours: *By appointment only.* Call for subscription details.

Query Mill Hill Farm

Contact: Judith Lesser or Mark Israel
Darnestown, MD

301-926-8602
marksisrael@msn.com

Description: Growing heirloom vegetables, blackberries, and melons using sustainable farming practices. Full and half-share subscriptions may be available.

Hours: *By appointment only.* Call for subscription details.

Red Wiggler Community Farm

23400 Ridge Road
Germantown, MD 20876

301-916-2216
info@redwiggler.org
<http://www.redwiggler.org/>

Description: Growing approximately 40 different vegetables and herbs. Call or visit website for details.

Hours: During special events, otherwise *by appointment only*.

Sandy Spring CSA

Contact: Erin Johnson
Sandy Spring, MD

301-438-3927
<http://www.sandyspringcsa.com>

Description: Growing certified organic vegetables, organic and non-organic fruits. Subscriptions are limited.

Hours: *By appointment only*. Call for subscription details.

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